

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Withdrawn) For a stump grinder, a split wheel comprising a first half and a second half joined to one another along the diametric surfaces thereof, each half having an axially positioned semicircular cut-out corresponding to the diameter of the stump grinder shaft, and means for removably joining the two halves together comprising a pair of clamping means.

2. (Withdrawn) The split wheel according to claim 1, including clamping means comprising a pair of butterfly clamps, a slot inboard of the semicircular periphery of each half extending in from each mating plane to receive one clamp, a groove along the mating surface joining each slot to the semicircular periphery to receive a bolt extending in from the periphery and through a key, and threaded into one of the clamps to hold the two halves together, and a shoulder recessed beneath the peripheral surface to receive the key and the head of the bolt.

3. (Withdrawn) The split wheel according to claim 1 further including a plurality of recesses in the periphery thereof, each recess shaped to receive a removable cutter block.

4. (Withdrawn) The split wheel according to claim 3 wherein each recess has a front edge, a bottom edge, and a back edge, a threaded block fastener near the front edge, the rear edge being undercut to conform to the trailing surface of a block.

5. (Withdrawn) The split wheel according to claim 3 including a circumferentially extending slot in the bottom of the recess adapted to receive an alignment key engageable with a corresponding slot in the bottom of each block.

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6. (Withdrawn) The split wheel of claim 3 wherein the threaded block fastener comprises a slot radially inwardly of each recess, and a nut plate in the slot having a threaded hole to receive the block fastener.

7. (Withdrawn) The split wheel according to claim 5 wherein the nut plate includes a second threaded hole to receive a threaded fastener extending through a block wedge.

8. (Withdrawn) The split wheel according to claim 1 wherein each half includes a semicircular cut-out along the diametric surface on either side of the axially positioned cut-out, whereby each cut-out forms a non-axially located circular hole with the corresponding cut out on the other half.

9. (Withdrawn) A replaceable cutter block adapted to be inserted into a recess in the periphery of the cutting wheel for a stump grinder, the cutter block having a top surface with a radius of curvature corresponding to that of the cutting wheel, a bottom surface that is coplanar with the bottom of the recess, two parallel side surfaces, a leading surface and a trailing surface, the trailing surface corresponding to the rear surface of the recess, and a least one hole to receive a removable cutting tooth, the hole extending from the top surface or a side surface at an angle of inclination from the said surface toward the back surface of a block.

10. (Withdrawn) A block according to claim 9 further including means extending longitudinally along the bottom thereof, adapted to engage an alignment means in the bottom of the recess.

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11. (Withdrawn) The block according to claim 10 wherein the means on a bottom of the block is a slotted key way adapted to receive a key, wherein the key comprises an integral portion of the bottom of the recess, or separately engages a corresponding slot in the bottom of the recess.

12. (Withdrawn) The block according to claim 9 further including a threaded fastener for fastening the block into the recess of the cutting wheel.

13. (Withdrawn) The block according to claim 12 wherein the threaded fastener comprises a bolt adapted to be threaded into a nut plate positioned within the cutting wheel.

14. (Withdrawn) The block according to claim 9 wherein the trailing surface of the block conforms to the back wall of the recess and has an angle of less than 90° but greater than about 60° with respect to the bottom of the block, a longitudinally extending key slot in the bottom thereof to receive a key conforming to a key slot in the bottom of recess for lateral stability.

15. (Withdrawn) The block according to claim 14 further containing at least one hole extending into the block from a side thereof to receive a removable cutting tooth, the hole extending diagonally from the side thereof toward the back thereof

16. (Withdrawn) The block according to claim 9 wherein the at least one hole extends into the block toward the trailing surface at an angle of between about 30° and about 60° .

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17. (Currently amended) A tooth to be removably engaged with a block on the circumference of a stump cutting wheel comprising:

a) a planar cutting surface adapted to form an angle generally orthogonal to a side or the top of said block when the tooth is engaged therewith,

b) a shank to be inserted into a corresponding hole in the block, said shank having a free end, an abutment end, the abutment end terminating in a shoulder adapted to cooperate with the block to serve as a stop to limit the movement of the shank into the block, and

c) an extension projecting rearwardly of the tooth face and adapted to rest against the side or the top surface of a block when the tooth is inserted into the block, said extension serving to provide a support for the tooth when in use.

18. (Original) The tooth according to claim 17 wherein the shank includes a circumferentially extending groove and a spring clip engaging the groove for the purpose of providing a compressive fit of the tooth in the corresponding hole in a block.

19. (Original) The tooth according to claim 17 wherein the cutting face comprises a hardened carbide steel insert.

20. (Original) The tooth according to claim 17 wherein the shank is cylindrical and has an axis that forms a 90° angle with respect to the shoulder.

21. (Original) The tooth according to claim 20 wherein the carbide steel insert is joined to the tooth by brazing.

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22. (New) The tooth according to claim 17 wherein the shank forms an angle between about 30° and 60° with respect to the cutting face of the tooth.

23. (New) The tooth according to claim 22 wherein the shank forms an angle of about 45° with respect to the cutting face of the tooth.

24. (New) The tooth according to claim 17 wherein the shank includes a circumferentially extending groove and a spring pin engaging the groove for the purpose of securing of the tooth in the corresponding hole in a block.